

Message Text

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APPROVED BY NEA:LBLAINGEN

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EA:JTAYLOR

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R 280132Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214587

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, US, IN, CH

SUBJECT: US MAPS OF SINO-INDIAN BORDER

REF: STATE 142936

1. AS ACTION POSTS AWARE, DEPARTMENT IS REVIEWING THE GENERAL QUESTION OF DEMARCATION ON USG MAPS OF THE SINO-INDIAN BORDER IN THE AKSAI CHIN REGION (REFTEL). EXCEPT FOR THE VERY SPECIAL CASE OF ISRAEL, USG PRACTICE IS TO SHOW DE-FACTO "LINE OF CONTROL" BORDERS RATHER THAN CONFLICTING CLAIMS. OUR PRESENT TREATMENT OF AKSAI CHIN IS EXCEPTIONAL AND LEAVES US OPEN TO PROBABLE PROTESTS FROM PRC. WE ARE, THEREFORE, CONSIDERING THE OPTION OF SHOWING THE ACTUAL "LINE OF CONTROL" BOUNDARY IN THE AKSAI CHIN AREA, WITH THE NOTATION THAT BOUNDARY IS IN DISPUTE.

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2. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE NEGATIVE REACTION FROM INDIA AS RESULT OF THIS "LOSS" OF INDIAN TERRITORY ON USG MAPS. INDIAN REACTION, HOWEVER, MIGHT BE MITIGATED BY OTHER CONCURRENT USG CARTOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN HER FAVOR: (1) FOLLOWING RECENT GOI-GOP AGREEMENT, INTERNATIONAL BORDERS AND SEPARATE IDENTIFICATION OF FORMER PORTUGUESE AREAS IN INDIA WOULD NOW BE ELIMINATED; AND (2) FOLLOWING RECENT CHANGE IN INDO-SIKKIM RELATIONSHIP, DOTTED BORDER AND SEPARATE IDENTIFICATION OF SIKKIM MIGHT RPT MIGHT ALSO BE ELIMINATED.
3. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE VIEWS OF NEW DELHI, PEKING AND HONG KONG ON POSSIBLE CHANGES OUTLINED ABOVE.
4. FOR NEW DELHI: WE ARE RESEARCHING STATUS OF ASSURANCES REPORTEDLY GIVEN INDIA IN 1969 RE USG TREATMENT OF AKSAI CHIN AND MENTIONED IN SCHNEIDER/KUX SEPTEMBER 12 LETTER.
5. CHANGES IN USG MAPS WOULD NOT RPT NOT APPEAR UNTIL AFTER SECRETARY'S VISIT TO NEW DELHI IN OCTOBER. KISSINGER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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